

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Addendum

MIHP Number: HA-716, HA-717
(~~HA-716 House; HA-717 Tenant House~~)

Property Name: Park Farm or Park Place

Property Address: Wheel and Emmorton Roads (Emmorton Vicinity), Bel Air,
Harford County, MD 21014

~~HA-717~~ Park Farm or Park Place was described as an eighteenth century dwelling house in the 1976 form prepared by the County. It was also noted that the building was unoccupied, but in fair condition. In the past twenty-five years, the area surrounding the building has become overgrown, with trees and bushes growing up against the house.

In 2003, the building is in poor condition. The windows have fallen out and because of the heavy growth surrounding the house, it was not possible to determine any other condition, although the roof appears to be whole.

~~HA-716~~ The tenant house was reported to be southwest of the main house. It was not observed during the field visit and is presumed to be demolished.

Reported by Anne E. Bruder, Architectural Historian, Maryland State Highway
Administration, 12/23/2003

200400104

Edgewood USGS Quad

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HA-716, HA-717

5763 III SE
(BEL AIR)

HA-0716

Mt. Carmel Methodist Church

HA-1065

Park Farm (Park Place)

HA-0717

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

HA-0168

St Mary's Church

ATKISSON RESERVOIR
(ARMY CHEMICAL CENTER)

Bynum

Run

Reservoir

Norris Corner

St Francis De Sales Church

INTERCHANGE 4

WINTERS



HA 716

FAIRFIELD

HARFORD COUNTY, MD

A. PRIMER

12/2003

ART-2611 <No. 4>004
849 1717 10 1111-4 11 (044)0

MD SH PO

LOOKING WEST IN EAST/SOUTH
FACED

1/1

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1307165204
1307175204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Park Farm or Park Place

AND/OR COMMON Park Farm or Park Place

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Southwest Corner of Wheel and Emmorton Roads.

CITY, TOWN Bel Air VICINITY OF first CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. George Graham, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 514 Anderson Avenue

CITY, TOWN Closter VICINITY OF STATE, zip code New Jersey 07624

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE, Harford County Courthouse
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: HTB 14

Folio #: 266

STREET & NUMBER 40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN Bel Air STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS (partly)	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This stately, brick house, now abandoned and left to decay, is located on the corner property at Wheel and Emmorton Roads, approximately three miles south of the Bel Air town limits.

This two story brick dwelling is three bays by one and faces east. It is built onto low, rubble stone foundations. It has a gable flank slate roof. A brick chimney is located at each gable end. Both the east and south facades are of flemish bond construction while the north and west sides are of common bond. A brick water table surrounds the house. A four course, flemish bond string is on the front (east) facade. The principle entrance is located in the south bay of the east facade. This entrance has a four light transom. The pegged door and window frames are thought to be original. Windows are two lights over two.

Formerly L-shaped, the rear wing has fallen entirely except for the brick fireplace at the west gable end. The portion of the fireplace that remains measures approximately 36x40 inches. Traces of the wing roof along the west wall of the house show that a peaked roof ran east-west. This ruin is believed to have been the kitchen section of the house.

In side, the floor plan of this structure is a side through hall with two rooms. An open well stairway is located in the south west corner of the hall, and retains its fine Georgian woodwork. It has block and turned balusters. The interior retains excellent wainscoting, panelled doors and mantelpieces despite vandalism and deterioration. Sliding doors are present between the two first floor rooms. These have eight moulded panels each. Chair rails are reportedly present in other areas of the house. A fireplace is present in each of the downstairs rooms and are serviced by the single brick chimney on this, the north side. This chimney/flue system is probably an inverted Y. There are no fireplaces on the south wall and the chimney appears to be solely ornamental.

A tenant house is located south west of the main house. This is a two story, frame structure consisting of two parts. It faces south. The larger section is three bays by two. Two chimney are located on the west gable end. The smaller section is two bays by two. Windows throughout are six lights over six. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The tract, Gibson Park, appears to have been originally patented by Aquila Paca, for it is known that he owned 800 acres of the tract in 1709. The 1783 Maryland Tax List confirms the enclosed title search and shows that William Wilson, Esq. owned 400 acres of Gibson Park, while his sister, Rachel owned 200 acres.

McKenzie indicates that William Wilson built the brick house at Gibson Park in 1773, while Preston feels otherwise: "In 1786, William Wilson, who had married Pamela Bond, built, of bricks made on the place, the large house near Emmorton." It is definitely known that the house stood in 1798, as the Federal Tax Assessment of that year shows that William Wilson owned 600 acres and 18 slaves, with a brick dwelling (35x35 feet) and kitchen (28x16 feet), as well as a granary and slave quarter.

As can be seen in the enclosed geneological chart, the Wilson family settled at Gibson Park prior to 1753. William's sons, John and William, ran a store in Abingdon during the latter half of the eighteenth century. They carried tobacco and rum among their other items of exchange; this is indicated in a surviving ledger which is owned by Miss Eloise Wilson, a decendent.

An interesting development occurs in the wills handing down the Wilson property to the heirs. It is mentioned in several of the wills that the property should be divided among the female children. Cassandra Wilson stipulates in her will of 1847 that her share of the property should go to her sister Rachel and if she should marry, to the female children of her brother and her other sister, Ann Lee. Rachel, in turn, indicates in her will of 1882, that the property should go to her brother, Joshua, in trust, for his three daughters. The female line of ownership was broken when Ralph Wilson bought out his sister's interest in the Park Farm. He did, however, will the property to his granddaughter, the present owner, Emily.

This Georgian influenced, brick house is abandoned now. The kitchen wing has fallen in, but the main part of the house appears to be fairly sound. The Flemish bond brick work on the east and south facades is an unusual feature in Harford County. This house is not beyond hope by any means.

This fine, old house is endangered by the Route 24 alteration currently proposed by State Highways and should be considered when a final decision is made on that subject.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1783 Maryland Tax List
 1798 Federal Tax List
 McKenzie's Colonial Families
 Preston, Walter W.; History of Harford County
 Wright, C. Milton; Our Harford Heritage

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 197 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property is bounded on the east by Emmorton Road (Rte 24)
 and on the north by Wheel Road.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian

December 2, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Historic District Commission

DATE

838-6000 ext. 207

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

HA-716, (HA-717)

Survey
Graham-Wilson
have
Ha. Co.

JAMES THOMAS WOLLON, JR., A.I.A.

Architect

Craigs' Corner Road

Have de Grace, Maryland 21078

734-7980

19 February 1973

RECEIVED

FEB 22 1973

Mr. Arthur Townsend
Maryland Historical Trust
2525 Riva Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Dear Arthur:

This is an emergency letter.

We wish to call your attention to an early house which is, we heard yesterday, in or very near the path of a much-needed bypass around Bel Air, scheduled for construction in the near future. This road will be a relocation of state Route 24 (Emmorton Road), and the house is in Emmorton, a few miles south of Bel Air, on the west side of Route 24, south of Wheel Road, north of St. Mary's Church Road.

This house is 717, the Graham-Wilson House, on the Harford County Inventory.


We cannot tell you much about the house, but we are making immediate inquiries about it, and are sending you this emergency letter of information.

The house is brick, three bays, two storeys, Georgian style, rather formal in composition, with a flush end chimney at each end. With a side entrance, it probably has a side hall with two rooms on one side, but that is not necessarily so. From the road, it would appear to date from c. 1800. It is not particularly typical of Harford County, where formal houses of the Georgian period are rare. It has not been lived in for years, but does not appear to be in bad condition. Little else is known about it by us, except that we know it is owned by an absentee owner in Philadelphia or New York, or somewhere, and is definitely not for sale, for many people have wanted to buy it.

If it is in the path of the road, or its right-of-way, it will be sold, of course, to the state. Can the Maryland Historical Trust become involved?

We plan to try to get permission to inspect the house, and we shall keep you informed. Your advice will be much appreciated.

Very truly yours,


James T. Wollon, Jr.

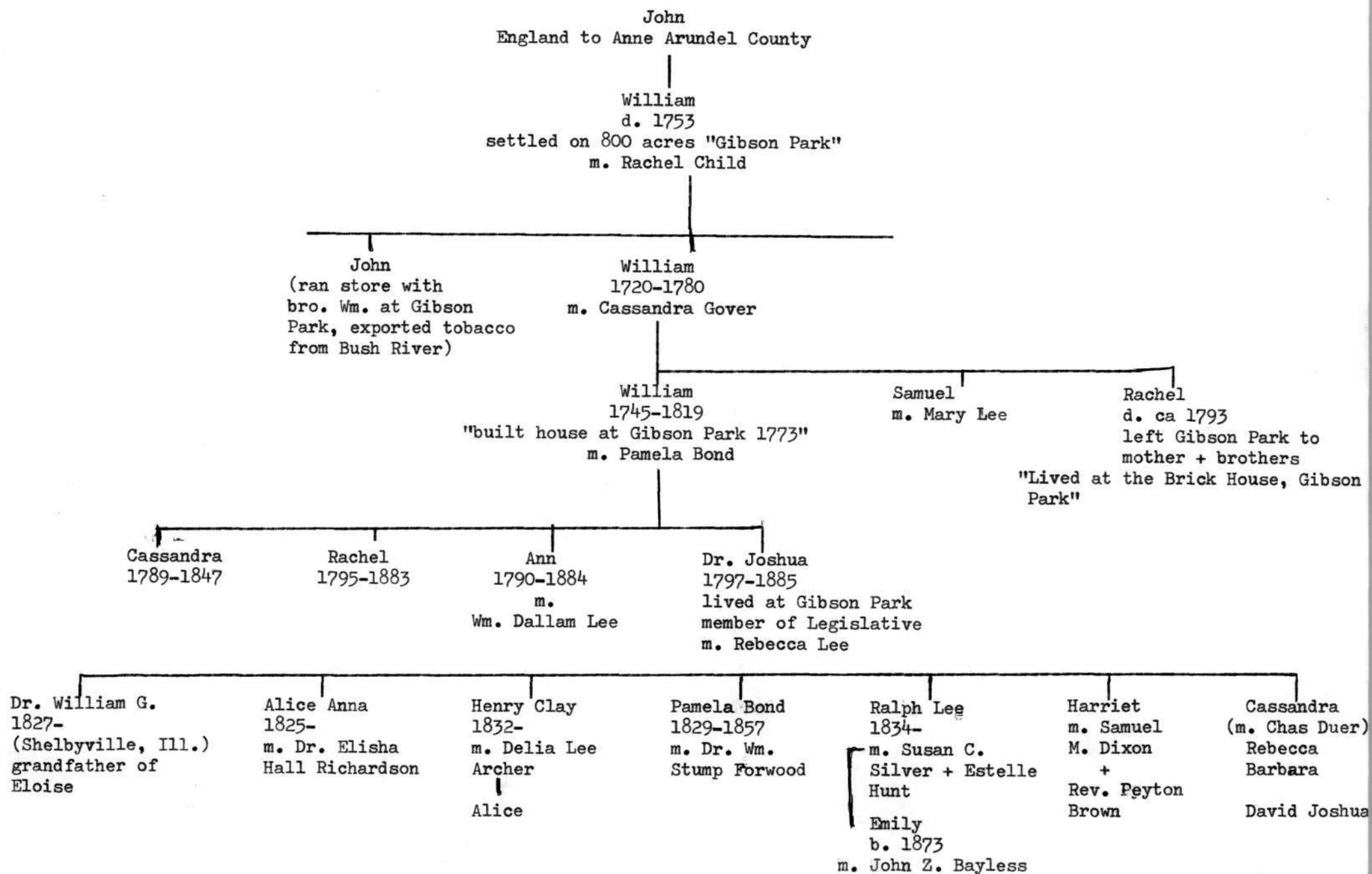
Member, Harford County Committee, MHT

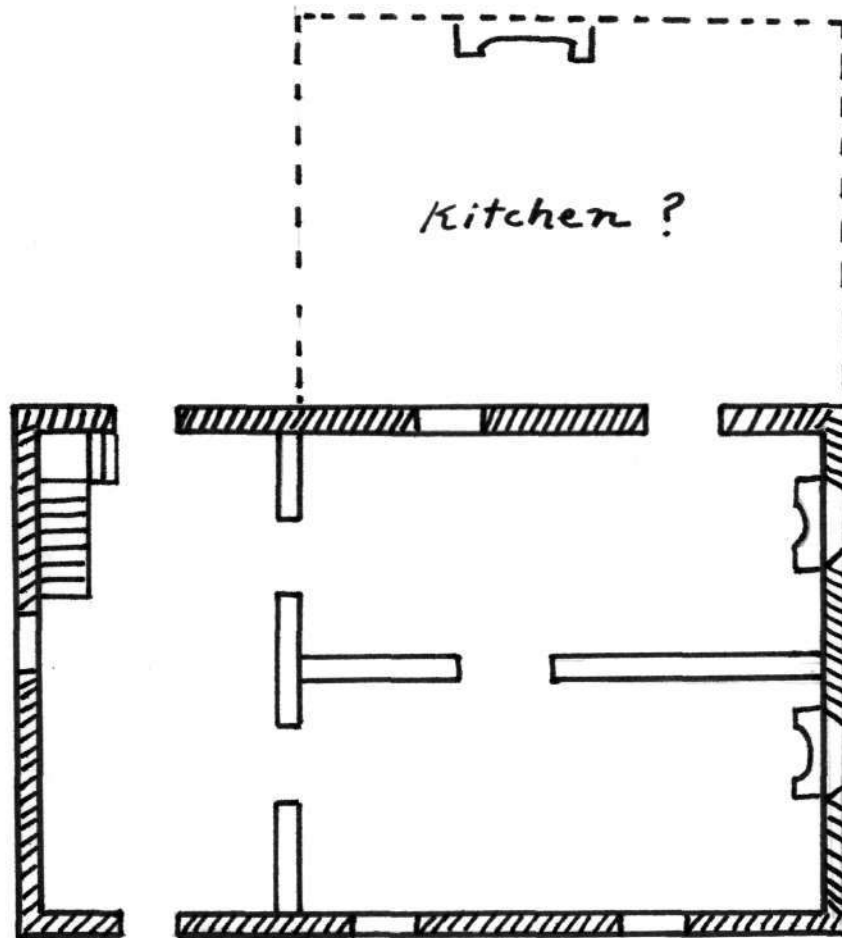
cc: Mrs. Johnson, Chairman

TITLE SEARCH
HA-716, HA- 717

Mrs. George Graham, Jr.
514 Anderson Avenue
Closter, N.J. 07624

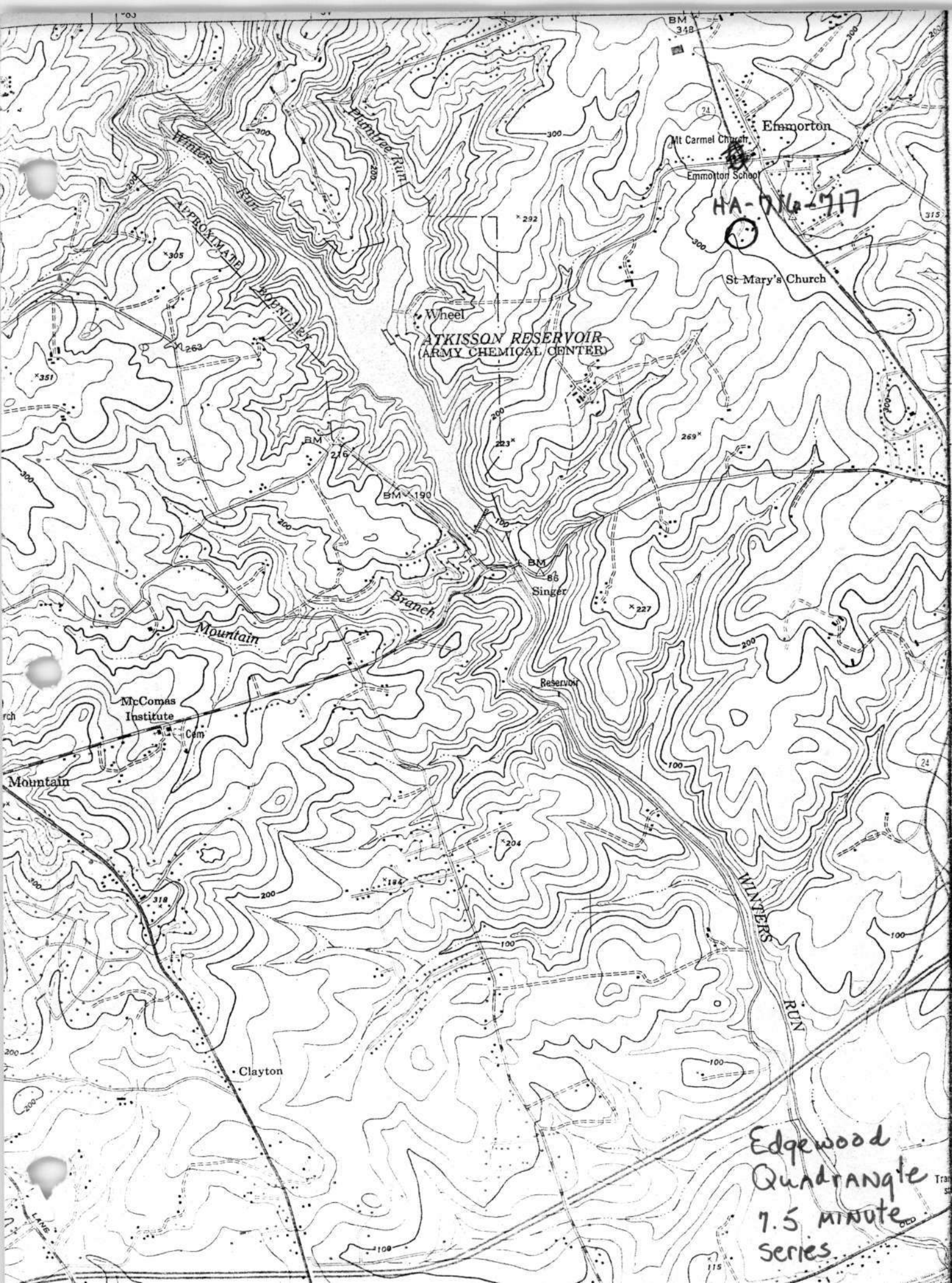
HTB	14	266	1/6/1909	Grantor: Ralph L. Wilson, Last Will and Testament Grantee: Emily R. Wilson Acreage: All the residue of my estate
ALJ	55	336	3/7/1886	Grantor: Ralph L. Wilson, Mortgage Grantee: Rebecca B. Wilson Acreage: Farm called "Park Place"
ALJ	56	286	3/9/1886	Grantor: Alice A. Richardson, E. Hall Richardson, her husband, R. Barbara Wilson, Harriet A. Brown, B. Peyton Brown, her husband Grantee: Ralph L. Wilson Acreage: Sold their 197 acres interest in the farm, "Park Place"
ALJ	56	315	2/8/1886	Grantor: Ralph L. Wilson Acreage: Sold 4 acres of "Gibson's Park"
WSR	10	101	9/6/1880	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of Dr. Joshua Wilson Grantee: Ralph L. Wilson Acreage: 197 acres of a farm called "Park Place", formerly owned by Rachel and Cassandra Wilson
TSB	6	151	6/25/1847	Grantor: Cassandra Wilson, Last Will and Testament Grantee: Rachel Wilson Cassandra gave Rachel all of her property-"Real, personal and mixed" in trust if Rachel marries, to female children of brother Joshua + sister Ann Lee
WSR	9	406	5/3/1882	Grantor: Rachel Wilson, Last Will and Testament Grantee: Joshua Wilson Acreage: All the rest and residue of my estate in trust to receive the same and pay it over to his three daughters to wit: Alice A., Harriet A., and Barbara R. in equal shares as tenants in common
AJ	R	223	12/3/1790	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of Rachel Wilson Grantee: Property to her mother, and after she dies, property to be divided between her two brothers.
AJ	R	180	2/18/1774	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of William Wilson. Grantee: 200 acres of Gibson Park to daughter Rachel. 400 acres of Gibson Park to son, William





Park Place
HA-717

North →



Edgewood
Quadrangle
7.5 minute
series



Park Farm
Wheel Road
Emmorton, MD
Susan M. Deeney
East
March, 1977

HA-716
717



HA 717

main section intact

8550

March 71

JEE

Graham. Lee abandoned house



HA 717

ruins of kitchen fireplace

8550

JSE March 71

Graham - Lee abandoned house



HA 716

855

882 March 71

Graham - Lee tenant house